

What is claimed is:

1. A method of identifying a shelf within a cabinet, said shelf carrying at least one item to be located by a user, said method comprising the step of causing a numeric display to flash a number that is the number of items to be located which are carried by the shelf.
2. A method, comprising:
entering user information into a processor controlling a dispensing cabinet;
said processor unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;
choosing a query mode;
identifying an item for which information is sought;
displaying information for the identified item;
logging off; and
locking the unlocked doors.
3. The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the step of entering patient information.
4. The method of claim 3 additionally comprising the steps of opening one of the unlocked doors, selecting a compartment, entering the number of items taken, and closing the opened door.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of choosing a query mode includes choosing from among a dispense, locate, return, query and restock mode.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of identifying an item for which information is sought includes one of picking an item from a pick list, inputting identifying information with a keypad, and barcode scanning.
7. A method, comprising:
entering user information into a processor controlling a dispensing cabinet;
said processor unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;
entering patient information into the processor;
choosing a query mode;
identifying an item for which information is sought;
displaying information for the identified item;

opening an unlocked door;
selecting a compartment;
identifying the number of items taken from the selected compartment;
displaying the number of items taken on a display;
closing the opened door;
logging off; and
locking the unlocked doors.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said step of choosing a query mode includes choosing from among a dispense, locate, return, query and restock mode.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said step of identifying an item includes one of picking an item from a pick list, inputting identifying information with a keypad, and barcode scanning.